

South Delta Temporary Barriers Weekly Update- April 30, 2012

The following report on the Temporary Barriers Project is for your information and action, as appropriate. This report will be transmitted whenever changes occur to the operation of the barriers, and as a result of modeling and/or field monitoring of water levels in the south Delta.

STATUS AS OF: April 30, 2012

As stipulated by court order, the Head of Old River, Middle River, and Old River Tracy Temporary Rock Barriers were installed approximately two weeks early. The early closure of the Head of Old River Rock barrier is intended to benefit out-migrating juvenile Chinook salmon and steelhead.

Head of Old River (HOR) Barrier:

Construction of the Head of Old River barrier began on March 15, 2012. Barrier closure and operation were achieved at noon on April 1, all eight slide-gate culverts are in open position. Crews completed construction the clay weir section of the barrier on April 11, 2012.

The Head of Old River Fish Study is underway, and telemetry data is being collected. The first release of acoustically tagged juvenile Chinook salmon occurred on 4/27/12. This study is being conducted in collaboration with the 6-yr Steelhead study.

Agricultural Barriers (Middle River [MR], Old River near Tracy [ORT], Grant Line Canal [GLC]):

Construction of the Middle River barrier began on March 12 and closure was obtained on March 16. All flap gates are tidally operated.

Construction of the Old River near Tracy barrier began on March 15 and closure and operation was achieved at 5:00 p.m. on March 31. All nine flap-gate culverts are tidally operated. The boat ramp and portage is in full operation as of Wednesday, April 4. Demobilizing and site cleanup was completed on Friday April 6.

The construction of the Grant Line Canal barrier is complete except the center weir portion. The center weir portion will be left open until after Delta smelt concerns have passed and approval from USFWS and DFG is received. Staff is working to get approval to close as soon as possible.

Water Levels/Water Quality/Sound Monitoring Problem Notifications:

In compliance with the 401 Certification, staff performs twice daily turbidity and settleable solids water sampling during construction. No violation of the conditions have been observed, and sampling will continue when construction resumes.

Modeling:

Modeling results are attached and forecasted minimum water levels are above target levels at Middle River at Howard Road (MHR) and Old River at Tracy Boulevard (OLD) stations, but slightly below target levels at the Doughty Cut (DGL) station.

Water levels for the forecast period are as follows:

MHR – Actual low water levels are slightly above the model forecast. Minimum model forecast water levels will occur on May 2, 2012 at approximately 0.7 ft (~ 0.4 ft above the target level of 0.3 ft.)

OLD – Actual low water levels are approximately following the model forecast. Minimum model forecast water levels will occur on May 2, 2012 at approximately 0.5 ft (~ 0.5 ft above the target level of 0.0 ft.)

DGL – Actual low water levels are approximately following, to slightly above, the model forecast. Minimum model forecast water level is forecasted to occur today at approximately -0.3 ft (~ 0.3ft below the target level of 0.0 ft.)

TBP staff continues to monitor water levels very closely.

These weekly updates are also available for your information on our website:

http://baydeltaoffice.water.ca.gov/sdb/tbp/index_tbp.cfm

Thank you,

Jacob

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